



EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1966

EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

With the compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,
Dover Road,
SANDWICH,
Kent.



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IN OFFICE

1966 - 1967

Chairman of the Council.	Councillor Mrs. M.T. Barr, J.P.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee.	Councillor Mrs. P.E. Thomas.
Clerk of the Council.	W. Wilmott, Esq.
Chief Public Health Inspector.	W.H. Sayers, Esq., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Surveyor:	R.H. Ruston, Esq. A.M.I.Mun.E., M.I.P.H.E.
Treasurer.	C.L. Wilson, Esq., A.C.C.S.
Medical Officer of Health.	Dr. Malcolm Smith Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health.	Dr. James Leslie Gordon, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Major General, Retired).

The Chairman and Members of
Eastry Rural District Council

Madam, Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

In matters concerned with the public health of the Rural District, the year could well be described as one of quiet progress without any outstanding changes or events. Eastry Rural District is a countryside with many facets. There are small pockets of rural isolation, close by the high surface gear that declares the subterranean pulsation of the mining industry. There is the mining township of Aylesham, the tracts of good growing downs and valleys, the reaches to the sea swept by gales or golfers, and the fruitful orchards round the Lesser Stour Valley. Village growth is firmly confined but few villages are static. Wingham, Ash, Eastry and Minster appear as popular settlements for those who seek escape from the towns, and improved sanitary services of sewerage and water supply, quickly attract more settlers.

Nevertheless, the population grows little and in 1966 the figure of 23,720 was only 220 over that of the previous year, only an 0.9% increase. The crude birth rate was 16.8 per 1,000 population. But on correction for population comparability (1.13) the resulting birth rate of 19 was well above the national figure of 17.7. The illegitimate births represented only 5.5% of the births.

The crude death rate of 16.9 per 1,000 population, so much higher than the national figure of 11.7 was accounted for by concentrations of long-stay elderly in two units in the district. Comparability achieved by the Registrar General's factor of 0.65 showed a corrected death rate slightly better than the national average.

The five infant deaths represented a low infant mortality rate of 12.5. Taking the two infant deaths under one week with the nine stillbirths, the resultant perinatal mortality rate (early infant deaths and stillbirths per 1,000 live and stillbirths) of 26.9 was on the national level (26.3).

In looking at the causes of death for the year under review, it is of interest to consider male mortality under age 65 to identify the main killers that deprive a household of its wage earner. There were 42 deaths in males age 15 - 64, and of these the main order of responsibility was:-

Coronary disease.	18
Vascular lesions of Nervous System.	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	3
Stomach cancer.	3
Lung cancer.	2
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases.	2

Out of the 21 female deaths aged 15 - 64 years, the main order of responsibility was:-

Lung cancer.	4
Circulatory Disease.	4
Breast cancer.	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms.	3
Coronary Disease.	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	1

It is worthy of note that in a population containing a significant proportion of coal mine workers, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases have declined as hazards of mortality. This must be credited to the improvement in underground working conditions and attention given to early detection of chest troubles in the industry. The casualties from coronary heart disease and vascular lesions of the nervous system highlights the need for the middle aged man to consider his need for exercise and weight control to maintain cardiac and circulatory efficiency.

Looking on the brighter side of life in the Rural District, the progress in improving living conditions was reflected in the following figures on inspection and improvement of houses:-

New houses built by the Council	87
" " " " private enterprise	131
Houses made fit by informal action	74
Number of Demolition Orders made	25
Number of Closing Orders made	2
Families re-housed from unfit houses	16
Condemned houses still occupied at 31.12.66. ...	41
" " " " " " 31.12.65. ...	38
Applications approved for Standard Grants ...	17
(Tenanted dwellings 4, owner occupiers 13)	
Applications approved for Discretionary Grants.	28
(Tenanted 22, owner occupiers 6)	

The Chief Public Health Inspector in his report gave figures for the Improvement Survey results, which showed that over 50% of the houses surveyed lacked one or more standard amenity.

Water Supply.

The district is provided with good sources of water supply taken from deep chalk wells by Thanet Water Board. The Board took over that part of the Mid Kent Water Company's supply serving the countryside behind Deal. The water is moderately hard but four-fifths of the hardness is temporary and of a carbonate nature. Total hardness is generally around the 250 p.p.m. level except in the Woodnesborough source which varies between 320 to 370 p.p.m. with variations in the non-carbonate hardness. The water is low in fluoride content.

Only 12 out of the 8224 dwellings in the Rural District are without a piped supply. Three of the houses on piped supply draw from mains stand-pipes.

Water sampling is carried out conscientiously by Thanet Water Board but samples are taken by the public health department where an additional purpose is served, such as a precaution associated with infectious disease investigation, from new areas of population or at the end of a long run of main. All mains supplies samples taken during the year (23) were bacteriologically satisfactory.

The private water supplies were sampled 24 times. Five of these sources were found unfit and required treatment or boiling before being a fit drinking water supply.

Check samples on School Swimming Pools were carried out on 12 occasions, on two of which unsatisfactory results were followed by advice on purification.

Sewage Disposal and Sewerage.

Over the previous six years, the number of houses with pail closets was reduced from 11% to 4%, leaving 336 dwellings still so provided, a reduction of 25 during 1966. Only 9 such dwellings were connected to public sewers while 40 cesspools and 19 septic tank systems were constructed. It is usually maintained that a side benefit from the provision of main drainage is the reduction in the cesspool emptying services of the local authority. But improvement in rural sanitary amenities in localities out of reach of sewerage schemes can only be achieved by cesspool or septic tank drainage, the latter being a better and self sufficient solution where water gathering areas and absorption capacity of the soil allow. The Chief Public Health Inspector points out that in the past five years including 1966, the number of cesspools or septic tanks increased over those abolished by main drainage by one hundred and forty.

Extensions of existing sewerage schemes were carried out at Minster to bring in the villages of Monkton and St. Nicholas-at-Wade. This involved enlargement and improvement of the Minster sewage treatment works. Extension of Eastry sewage disposal works was also started, in the course of which an easement was achieved to bring a water supply on to the site allowing the development of reasonable washing facilities for staff.

The condition of Elvington sewage disposal works had deteriorated much over the years and the history in this village of enterovirus infections was suggestive of troubles linked with these conditions. It was therefore satisfactory to note the Council's action in approving expenditure of just under £4,000 to bring this plant in to good order.

The extension of the Wingham sewers to serve part of Bridge Blean Rural District allowed inclusion of the sewerage of property around the Wingham Well pumping station.

Gypsies and Other Travellers.

The Council set out with determination to provide a caravan site for twelve families and, after careful consideration of the district, settled for a site in Willow Woods, Sutton. Between May and December opposition was expressed from several directions but the Council maintained its attitude. Finally a local Enquiry was held. There is still no approved gypsy caravan site east of Chilham or Ashford and a problem remains unsolved.

Holiday and Residential Caravan Sites.

There were sites for 574 holiday caravans and 68 residential caravans in the Rural District, with 10 other individual residential caravans licensed. The licensing of tented camping sites was limited to one site for 70 tents, but sporadic holiday camping was common especially in the Sandwich to Deal area.

The popularity of Sandwich Bay for day visitors necessitated attention to the inadequacy of sanitary accommodation and a scheme was promoted to increase the public conveniences available.

Old People.

There were no cases requiring formal Section 47, National Assistance Act procedure during the year.

The Rural District Council implemented its decision to develop Warden Assisted housing facilities and selected St. Nicholas-at-Wade for the first unit of 30 flatlets with supporting amenities. The layout is most attractive and has achieved that air of peace without isolation that offers comfort to the overburdened and interest without stress.

Homeless Families.

During the year the County Council, through the Children's Officer, and the Rural District Council, developed close co-operation on the problem of re-establishing evicted or homeless persons. The opportunity presented by Police houses in County ownership becoming vacant, was used on a lease and exchange basis to make the provision of District Council owned property available to the Children's Department under a supervised tenancy and guaranteed rental arrangement.

Problems of Infectious Disease.

There was a limited prevalence of Sonne Dysentery, in the main confined to the northern half of the Rural District abutting on Thanet. But more than half the cases were in adults. One household outbreak persisted for some weeks through poor co-operation on treatment and clearance. We can usually count on good understanding of the problems and responsibilities of the public health department in the investigation and control of infection.

Winter vomiting disease of which the cause is not yet known, persists in its sporadic occurrence in late autumn or spring. It involved one school of 400 pupils in the 11-16 age range, out of whom approximately one-third suffered nausea, vomiting, headaches and diarrhoea, between January and March. The illness was short lived and seldom necessitated calling in the family doctor. The Headmistress's view that the illness was similar to a very mild form of infective jaundice is not without support elsewhere. It appeared in particular classes and groups over the period and not at random. Our information on the outbreak came too late to be effective but a scrutiny of precautions taken disclosed a discrepancy in the continuing use of roller towels "changed once a week". If the virus of this illness is faecal spread, nothing could be more helpful to spread than "roller towels changed once a week".

A sudden outbreak of vomiting in 11 out of 67 patients in the infirmary block of a Chronic sick hospital was investigated in mid-summer. The onset was at 9 p.m. Unfortunately no food remnants were available and vomit specimens produced no pathogens. A manufactured meat product packed in polythene wrapping was suspect as a source of Toxic food poisoning of a mild nature, limited to one pack of the product. The precautions to prevent infection in the hospital were found to be of good standard.

An outbreak of streptococcal sore throat in a residential school was feared by the school doctor who sought the Medical Officer of Health's help with swabbing and investigation. Results fortunately did not confirm the fear but the possibility of an adenovirus cause remained, which was prevented from building up in the community by holiday dispersal. The school swimming pool showed failure of chlorination through the development of a high pH in the water. Emptying and refilling revived the chlorination. This is probably a common risk towards the end of summer term in such swimming pools.

Road and Home Safety.

The Council has an active Safety Committee which, through its Safety Officer, carries out good road and home safety education in schools and in the community.

The tables in support of this report follow.

MALCOLM S. HARVEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLES AND STATISTICS - EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT 1966.

Population - Mid Year:	-	23,720.		
Live Births:	-	400	Male	207
			Female	193
			(Illegitimate 22)	
Stillbirths:	-	9	Male	3
			Female	6
Deaths:	-	402	Male	177
			Female	225
Infant Deaths:	-	5	Male	1
			Female	4
Infant Deaths under 1 week:	-	2	Female	2

Rates:

England &
Wales:

17.7	Birth rate per 1,000 population	=	16.8
	(X Comparability factor (1.13) = 19)		
	% Births illegitimate	=	5.5%
19.	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births:)	=	12.5
	Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths:)	=	2.2
26.3	Perinatal Mortality Rate: Stillbirths and Infant deaths under 1 week/1,000 live and stillbirths:	=	26.9
11.7	Death rate per 1,000 population	=	16.9
	(X Comparability factor 0.65 = 11)		
	% Deaths under age 65:	Male:	25%
		Female:	11%
	% Deaths over 75:	Male:	40%
		Female:	68%

Infectious Diseases Notified 1966.

	Disease.	Quarter.				Age Group.						
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15+	TOTAL:	
Total 1965.												
2	Scarlet Fever.	1	-	1	1	-	-	3	-	-	3	
9	Dysentery.	4	7	2	-	1	4	1	-	7	13	
4	Whooping Cough.	17	-	-	-	1	6	8	2	-	17	
415	Measles.	9	35	6	4	3	17	31	3	-	54	
	Food Poisoning.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Other Diseases:					Under 5	5-14	15-44	45-64	65+	TOTAL:	
	Acute Pneumonia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
	Pulmonary T.B.	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	
	Non-Pulmonary T.B.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	

There were also notified two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

The state of the Tuberculosis Register as at 31.12.66 was:-

	<u>Pulmonary:</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary:</u>	<u>TOTAL:</u>
Male:	62	8	70
Female:	39	5	44
<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>114</u>

Vaccination and Immunization: (Figures supplied by Kent County Medical Officer of Health)

Smallpox:

Primary Vaccination - 202. Live Births 1965 - 390.
 Re-vaccination under 8 years. - .

Diphtheria:

Primary Immunization:	<u>Triple Vac.</u>	<u>Diph.Tet.</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Under 5 yrs.	283	3	286
5 - 15 yrs.	2	15	17

Boosters:

Under 5 yrs.	177	38	215
5 - 15 yrs.	83	143	226

Poliomyelitis:

Primary:

Under 5 yrs.	333
5 - 15 yrs.	62

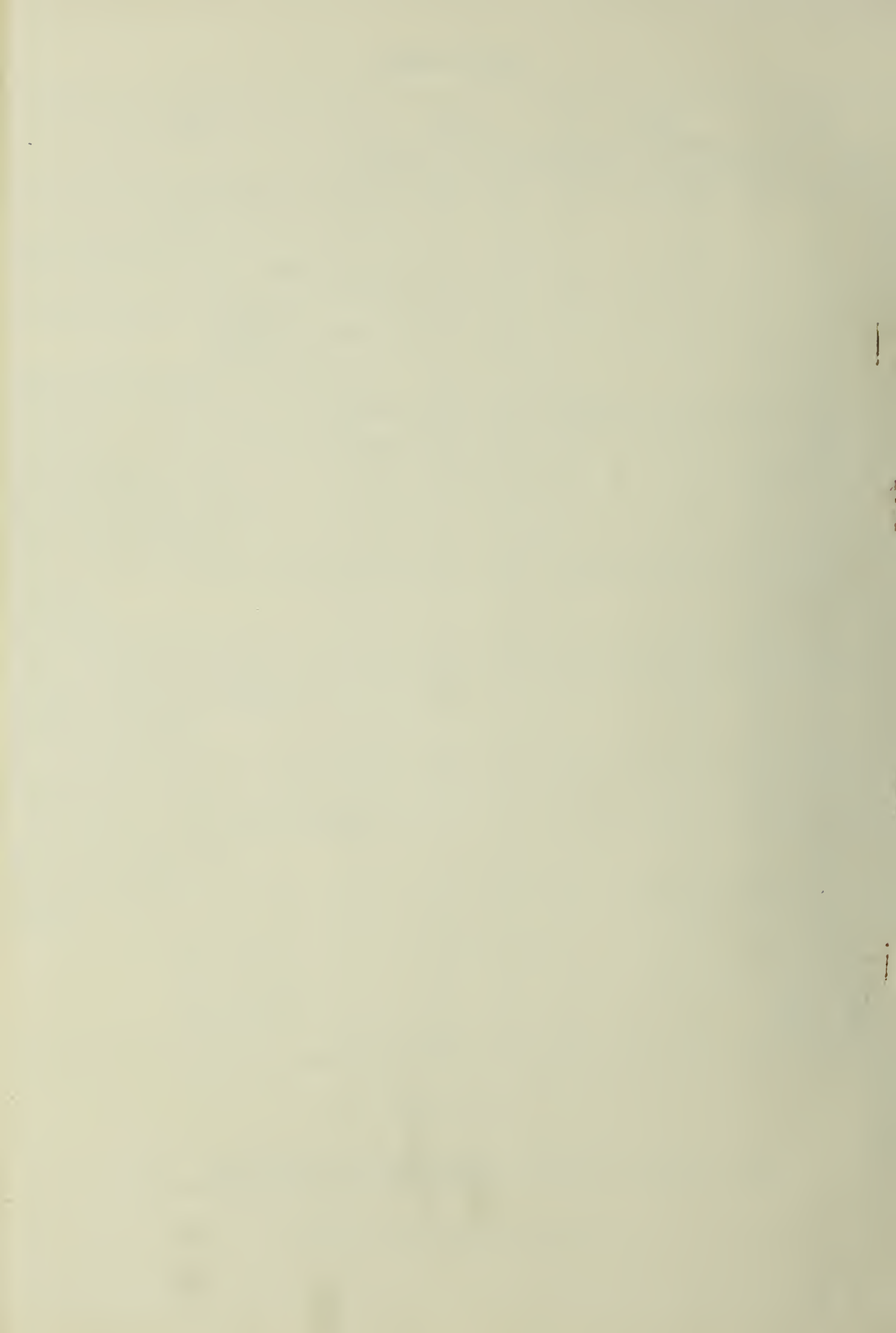
Booster:

Under 5 yrs.	17
5 - 15 yrs.	279

Causes of Death

Cause:	Male:			Female:			1966	
	Under 1	- 65	Total	Under 1	-65	Total	All	1965
Tuberculosis: Respiratory.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
" Other.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease.	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Other Infective/Parasitic Diseases.	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach:	-	3	6	-	-	3	9	5
Lung & Bronchus	-	2	8	-	4	4	12	17
Breast:	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	7
Other Malignant/Lymphatic Neoplasms:	-	4	12	-	3	16	28	22
Leukaemia/Aleukaemia.	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Diabetes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Vascular/Nervous System.	-	5	25	-	1	28	53	39
Coronary/Angina.	-	18	34	-	2	26	60	59
Hypertension/Heart Disease.	-	-	2	-	1	1	3	2
Other Heart Disease.	-	1	20	-	-	59	79	67
Other Circulatory Disease.	-	-	10	-	4	17	27	23
Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	10	-	-	13	23	23
Bronchitis.	-	1	17	-	-	3	20	9
Other Respiratory Diseases.	-	1	5	1	1	2	7	6
Ulcers: Stomach & Duodenum.	-	-	3	-	-	3	6	3
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Nephritis & Nephrosis.	-	1	2	-	-	1	3	4
Hyperlasia Prostate.	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	1
Congenital Malformation.	-	1	1	1	-	1	2	2
Other defined or Ill defined Diseases.	1	1	9	2	2	31	40	33
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	-	3	4	-	1	2	6	4
All other Accidents.	-	1	4	-	-	1	5	9
Suicide.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Male Deaths:	1	43	177				177	168
Female Deaths:				4	21	225	225	178
All Deaths:							402	346

The Tables on Factory Act, 1961, visits are included in the
Chief Public Health Inspector's section.



EASTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1966

REPORT BY THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of
Eastry Rural District Council

Madam Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on aspects of environmental health within the Eastry Rural District during the past year.

The phrase "people matter" is certainly not an original one but its importance, particularly in relation to the individual, make it as worthy of repetition today as ever before. Environmental health concerns people - the conditions under which they live and work, the fitness and safety of what they eat and drink, the freedom of their environment from air pollution, noise and other nuisances.

How far the effort employed in producing statistics on progress might be better employed and making faster progress is open to speculation, but I would ask that in studying the figures included in this report, they be judged in their relation to families and to individuals.

In cold statistical tables, the twenty-seven unfit houses on which demolition or closing orders have been made, may be but units of accommodation, but to the occupants they represent homes which, with all their shortcomings, many may be sad to leave. This is a human problem and for some of the older people - one half of those involved are Old Age Pensioners who have lived in their present homes for over twenty years - the prospect of moving even to an attractive modern Council dwelling can be rather frightening.

Again, any satisfaction there may be in noting the continued reduction in the number of pail closets, might well be tempered with the thought that there are still over three hundred households who have, and will continue to have for some years to come, a primitive form of sanitation which, perhaps, the majority of those reading this report have never known.

I should once again like to express my appreciation of the support and encouragement received from the Chairman and Members of the Council during the year and the help and co-operation from members of the staff.

W. H. SAYERS

Chief Public Health Inspector.

MARCH, 1967.

HOUSING

The problem of sub-standard housing is inevitably a continuing one since, apart from deterioration arising from age and lack of maintenance, acceptable housing standards are continuously rising.

After the drive made in 1965 to deal with all the houses then considered to be incapable of being made fit, attention has been transferred to the prevention of future slums, by the improvement of houses which have a useful future life but are lacking in amenity. This is a continuation of the Improvement Grant policy pursued by the Council since 1954, but extends it by a systematic survey throughout the district in which positive advice and encouragement is given to owners in all suitable cases. Unfortunately, in the year as a whole, there was a fall in applications for grant reflecting national economic measures, but some recovery was taking place by the end of the year.

The value of the ventilated foodstore, long considered essential for a fit house, is being increasingly challenged. With modern living, even if a refrigerator is available, a cool cupboard is still desirable, but its position in relation to kitchen planning and avoidance of a sunny external wall is as important as the provision of ventilation. It is unfortunate that grant conditions are so inflexible that essential amenities may be refused because ventilation to a foodstore cannot be provided, or an occupier compelled to have a foodstore which he has no intention of using.

(1) Action taken under the Housing Act, 1957.

No. of houses reported under Section 16. (i.e. not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable expense).	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
No. of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
No. of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
No. of houses, subject to Demolition or Closing Orders in which proposals for repair and improvement were accepted.	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
No. of houses, subject to Demolition or Closing Orders, repaired, improved and made fit for habitation and the Orders revoked.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
No. of houses made fit as the result of informal action.	...	...	...	...	...	...	74

SIXTEEN families were re-housed from condemned houses but at the end of the year FORTY-ONE such houses were still occupied.

(2) Improvement Grants.

The Council have been offering Improvement Grants since July, 1954, and up to the end of 1966, grants have been approved for a total of EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY dwellings.

(a) Discretionary Grants - 1966.

No. of dwellings in respect of which Grants were approved ... 28
(Six of these were owner/occupied and twenty-two tenanted)

Total cost of schemes approved:	£26,544
	(Average per dwelling £948)

Amount ascribed to: Improvements:	£16,684
	(Average per dwelling £596)

Repairs:	£9,860
	(Average per dwelling £352)

Total of Grants approved:	£6,324
	(Average per dwelling £226)

The maximum grant of £400 was approved in TEN cases.

(b) Standard Grants - 1966.

SEVENTEEN applications were approved, of which thirteen were from owner/occupiers.

Improvement Survey.

Total number of houses surveyed ...	196
-------------------------------------	-----

No. found to be lacking in one or more standard amenities:

Occupier owners	53
tenanted	108

No. of houses lacking:-

Bath/Shower in bathroom	56
wash-hand basin	95
hot water supply	71
internal W.C.	47
ventilated foodstore	71

WATER SUPPLY

There are 8,224 dwelling houses in the district, of which TWELVE only are now without a piped supply. THREE houses draw a main supply from standpipes.

Samples Taken:

Bacteriological:

From main supplies:	23	All were satisfactory.
From private wells:	24	5 sources were unfit.
From School Swimming Pools:	12	2 were unsatisfactory.

Chemical:

From main supplies:	1	Satisfactory.
From private supplies:	2	Satisfactory.

DRAINAGE

Alterations and additions were made to the drainage systems of EIGHTY-EIGHT existing buildings during the year and NINE were connected to public sewers.

FORTY cesspools and NINETEEN septic tanks were constructed; over the past five years, the number constructed has exceeded the number abolished as a result of main drainage, by ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY.

TWENTY-FIVE pail closets were converted to water closets.

PAIL CLOSETS

The following table shows the approximate number of Pail Closets existing in the various parishes:-

Parish.	No. of Dwelling Houses at 31/12/66.	Approx. No. of Dwelling Houses with Pail Closets at:	
		31/12/66	31/12/60
ACOL	78	-	1
ASH	940	31	120
AYLESHAM	1195	2	2
EASTRY	738	4	28
EYTHORNE	644	15	20
GOODNESTONE	137	25	53
MINSTER	1002	4	9
MONKTON	146	12	19
NONINGTON	243	34	49
NORTHBOURNE	280	10	55
PRESTON	232	24	46
RIPPLE	126	16	26
SARRE	44	3	10
SHOLDEN	213	5	55
STAPLE	153	45	69
STOURMOUTH	87	15	26
ST. NICHOLAS	259	3	28
SUTTON	301	11	31
TILMANSTONE	117	8	28
WINGHAM	582	17	58
WOODNESBOROUGH	375	45	120
WORTH	332	7	24
TOTAL:	8224	336	877

CARAVANS AND CAMPING

The use of land as a caravan site is controlled by the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. Subject to certain exemptions, land may not be used as a caravan site unless the occupier of the land holds a site licence authorising the use of the land for that purpose.

Site licences which have been issued by the District Council and are in force are as follows:-

Thanet's Caravan Park, Acol.	40 Holiday.
Frost Farm, St. Nicholas-at-Wade.	48 "
Smugglers Leap, Minster.	40 Residential.
Wayside, Minster.	41 Holiday.
Walters Hall, Monkton.	220 Holiday. 28 Residential.
Dog & Duck, Stourmouth.	60 Holiday.
Sandhills, Shelden.	65 "
Sutton Vale, Sutton.	100 "

Individual residential caravans	...	10.
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The control of sanitary conditions on tented camping sites is contained in the Public Health Act, 1936, but a licence is not required unless land is used for more than forty-two consecutive days or for more than sixty days in any twelve consecutive months.

One licence has been issued by the Council permitting a maximum of SEVENTY tents to be stationed on land at Court Road, St. Nicholas-at-Wade.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The District Council are responsible for the Sections of the Act relating to the provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences in all factories, building operations and works of engineering construction. In addition, they administer the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation and drainage of floors at factories without mechanical power.

Part I of the Act

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	3	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	57	77	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	60	79	2	-

Ten defects relating to sanitary conveniences were found during the year and all were remedied. Six outworkers were recorded, five making wearing apparel and one lampshades.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

This is an Act to provide for the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in agriculture. The District Council are required to administer the Section of the Act relating to the provision, maintenance and cleanliness of sanitary conveniences, but it has not yet been possible to do this systematically throughout the district.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

This Act provides for the health, welfare and safety of persons employed in offices, shops and certain railway premises.

All premises in the district for which the local authority are responsible under the Act have been registered, and eighty-eight received a general inspection during the year. The various type of premises registered are:-

Offices	31
Retail Shops	68
Catering Establishments	5
Fuel Storage Depots	1

During the year, infringements of the Act and Regulations were found as follows:-

Lack of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	6
Inadequate temperature	...	...	...	...	5
Insufficient ventilation	...	...	...	...	2
Insufficient or unsuitable lighting	...	...	...	...	12
Worn and unsafe floors	...	...	...	...	5
Absence of handrails to staircases	...	...	...	...	2
Unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation	...	...	...	...	...
or washing facilities	...	...	...	...	8
Absence of prescribed first aid materials	...	...	...	...	7

The Act requires the occupier of any premises to which it applies, to notify the enforcing authority of any accident occurring on the premises, which causes the death of a person employed, or disabled such person for more than three days from doing his usual work. No accidents were notified during 1966.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

This is a consolidated Act relating mainly to hours of Closing and Sunday Trading. So far as the welfare of shop assistants is concerned, it covers Statutory half holidays, meal times and the hours of employment of young persons. The District Council are responsible for functions under the Act under a delegation agreement with the County Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, are as follows:-

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Comply with</u> <u>Reg. 16.</u>	<u>Reg. 19</u> <u>applies.</u>	<u>Comply with</u> <u>Reg. 19.</u>
Wholesalers:	4	4	4	4
Retail Food Shops:	120	110	103	101
Hotels, Cafes, Restaurants, Canteens:	43	43	43	43
Licensed Premises:	64	64	64	64
Poulterers:	3	2	3	2

Premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

For the sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	93
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	3
For the Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	15
For Ham Boiling	...	...	...	12

There are 33 registered milk distributors in the district and all milk comes from outside the district.

Meat Inspection.

The one small slaughterhouse in the district ceased operation in April, 1966. Up to that date 100% inspection had been carried out.

Poultry.

There are three small poultry processing premises within the district, to which fourteen visits were made during the year. Slaughtering takes place at irregular intervals so that it is impracticable for Inspectors to examine every bird or carcass, but personnel are encouraged to carry out a system of scrutiny themselves. Two premises deal with hens and the other with turkeys and a total of some ten thousand birds were processed during the year.

General Food Inspection.

The following quantities of food were inspected and surrendered as unfit for human consumption:-

Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	165 lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	..	...	...	80 "
Bacon	..	...	...	...	...	...	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Tinned Goods		...	...	...	...		116 tins.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations.

Food inspected at Manston Airport:-

980 - cooked shoulder hams.
437 - lamb carcasses.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ one full time Rodent Operative who also assists with drain testing, disinfection and disinfestation.

With an area of 84 square miles to cover, he is very fully occupied, particularly between October and March.

A free treatment for rats and mice is given to private dwelling houses and so far as the Operative's time allows, other properties are treated on payment of a charge.

Up to the present few properties in the district have been under contract with private servicing companies, but several companies are endeavouring to extend their activites which, if successful, could relieve the demands for treatment made on the Council's services.

The primary duty of a local authority under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, other than carrying out treatment of its own land, is to survey the district for the presence of rats and mice and enforce the responsibility laid on occupiers and owners under the Act, for the destruction of rats and mice on their own land.

RODENT CONTROL.

INSPECTIONS - 1966

Properties Inspected.	Agricultural.	Non-Agricultural	Total
(a) As the result of notification.	37	220	257
(b) In the course of survey.	276	136	412
(c) No. found to be infested with rats or mice.	99	227	326

TREATMENT - 1966

Properties Treated by the Council's Operative.	Agricultural	Non-Agricultural	Total
	53	184	237
Agricultural Properties where owners carrying out own treatment with Warfarin:			170
